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Policy

Municipal “One-Day”

Bulky Waste Collections

Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection
Bureau of Waste Prevention
October, 2006

10/12/06

Date

SIGNATURE ON ORIGINAL

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Assistant Commissioner
BWP

This information is available in alternate format. Call Donald M. Gomes, ADA Coordinator at 617-556-1057. TDD Service - 1-800-298-2207.

MassDEP on the World Wide Web: <http://www.mass.gov/dep>

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This document is intended to guide parties in complying with the Solid Waste Regulations at 310 CMR 19.000.

This Policy does not create any substantive or procedural rights, and is not enforceable by any party in any administrative proceeding with the Commonwealth. This Policy provides recommendations and guidance on approaches MassDEP considers acceptable for operating a collection event for bulky waste in such a way as not to become a “facility” requiring a site assignment under 310 CMR 16.00 or a permit under 310 CMR 19.000. Other options for demonstrating compliance with the regulations may be acceptable. The regulatory citations in this document should not be relied upon as a complete list of the applicable regulatory requirements.

Introduction

Many towns have small solid waste transfer stations that do not collect bulky wastes during their regular facility hours. Other towns contract with commercial curbside collection services to collect solid waste and haul it directly to a solid waste management facility out of town. Some of these contracts do not include collection of various bulky waste items. Some municipalities want to hold special collection events one or two times a year to collect bulky wastes not collected in MSW collections. In some cases those municipalities would like to use sites other than their permitted solid waste transfer station site, if they have one, because they are more convenient to the public or another site is better suited to holding such an event. MassDEP agrees that special collection events for bulky wastes provide a necessary outlet for wastes that might otherwise be illegally disposed of and that separate bulky waste collections promote recycling instead of disposal.

MassDEP encourages municipalities to hold bulky waste collection events at a permitted solid waste facility site whenever possible. Permitted solid waste facilities have been site assigned by the local Board of Health (BOH) and permitted by the Department to manage municipal solid waste and are therefore the most appropriate sites for a bulky waste collection event. However, MassDEP recognizes that other sites may be better for holding special collection events for a variety of reasons such as size of the site, access issues and convenience to residents. Therefore, MassDEP has developed the following policy to allow municipal collection events for bulky wastes at sites other than a site assigned, permitted solid waste management facility.

This policy was written pursuant to the authority granted by M.G.L. c.111, §150A.

Policy

(1) Applicability and Compliance. This policy is limited to bulky waste collections conducted by a municipality where such collection is not at a site-assigned location. A municipality may conduct a bulky waste collection event (Event) provided that the location and Event are in compliance with all the conditions set forth in this policy. Compliance with the conditions of this policy means that an Event is not a facility as that term is defined in the Site Assignment Regulations, 310 CMR 16.00. If bulky wastes are not handled in accordance with the conditions of this policy, the handling shall be in non-compliance with the applicable solid waste regulations.

(2) Frequency of Events. A municipality may hold an Event up to four times per calendar year.

(3) Duration of an Event. The Event's duration shall not exceed 48 hours. Bulky waste items may be accumulated for the duration of the Event and may remain at the site for an additional period not to exceed 48 hours after the closing of the Event for the purposes of consolidating the bulky wastes in preparation for transfer for reuse, recycling or proper disposal as necessary.

(4) Acceptable Wastes. A bulky waste collection Event shall collect only those wastes described below:

- (a) Bulky waste as defined at 310 CMR 19.000. "Bulky Wastes means waste items of unusually large size including but not limited to large appliances, furniture, large auto parts, stumps, trees, branches, brush."
- (b) Furniture includes, but is not limited to, chairs, couches, beds, tables, mattresses, bookcases, shelves, cabinets and dressers;
- (c) Tires;

- (d) Scrap metal;
 - (e) Electronics, including Cathode Ray Tubes (CRTs), managed in compliance with 310 CMR 16.05(3)(f);
 - (f) Small propane tanks generated only from households;
 - (g) Universal wastes managed in compliance with the requirements of the Hazardous Waste Regulations at 310 CMR 30.1000;
- (5) Unacceptable Wastes. The following wastes may **NOT** be collected at a bulky waste collection Event under this policy. These wastes may be collected pursuant to other regulations as noted:
- (a) Municipal solid waste that is not bulky waste and/or is putrescible, may attract vectors, or cause nuisance conditions.
 - (b) Household hazardous waste. Household hazardous waste may only be collected at a household hazardous waste collection event or center pursuant to the provisions of the Household Hazardous Waste Regulations at 310 CMR 30.390;
 - (c) Medical or infectious wastes. These materials must be managed in accordance with Department of Public Health regulations at 105 CMR 480.00 and disposed of in accordance with the solid waste regulations at 310 CMR 19.061.
- (6) Site Conditions. The site of the Event shall meet all the following requirements:
- (a) The site shall be a municipally owned department of public works garage or highway department site or other appropriate publicly owned site that meets the requirements set forth in this policy.
 - (b) The site shall have sufficient space available to allow for:
 - 1. the accumulation and sorting of all collected wastes;
 - 2. the segregation of various wastes as may be required. For example, electronics must be collected to minimize breakage of CRTs, etc. Propane tanks should be set aside in an area approved by the municipality's Fire Chief.
 - 3. the safe entrance and egress of persons bringing bulky wastes to the Event and of persons working for the Event.
 - (c) At all times while the Event is in progress, and until all wastes accepted at the Event have been removed from the site of the Event, the following requirements shall apply:
 - 1. Access to the Event shall be restricted to those persons participating in the Event.
 - 2. Signs that clearly indicate the intended flow of traffic at the site shall be prominently posted at the site of the Event;
- (7) Event Operational Conditions. The municipality shall:
- 1. notify the appropriate DEP regional office, in writing, of the date and location of the Event at least two weeks in advance of the Event;
 - 2. provide clear signage identifying acceptable bulky waste materials and unacceptable materials;
 - 3. refuse to accept any waste that is not acceptable bulky waste as identified above;
 - 4. be available at all times during the event to respond to an emergency;
 - 4. be familiar with the layout of the site and all emergency response plans; and
 - 5. send all collected wastes for reuse, recycling or proper disposal as appropriate for the specific waste collected.
 - 6. All material collected at the Event must be removed from the site within 48 hours of the Event.